

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. It is asserted in the Action that restriction to one of the following groups is required:

- I. Claims 1-15, drawn to a method of treating spinal cord injuries utilizing effective amounts of a polyalkylene glycol and a potassium channel blocker, classified in class 514, subclasses 723 and 352.
- II. Claims 16-21, drawn to a composition for treating spinal cord injuries comprising effective amounts of a polyalkylene glycol and a potassium channel blocker, classified in class 514, subclasses 723 and 352.

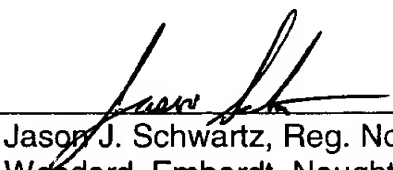
Group I (claims 1-15) is elected with traverse. In light of the discussion below, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

One of the requirements for a proper restriction requirement is that "[t]here must be a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is not required." *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure*, § 803 (1998). As can be seen above, the subject matter of both groups are identically classified. A search of prior art with respect to Group I would reveal prior art for Group II and vice-versa. Therefore, it is submitted that the burden imposed on the Examiner will not be serious if the restriction requirement is withdrawn. Withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-21 are in condition for further examination and allowance. Action towards this end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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